

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA

SUBJ: MP FRANCIS FOX NAMED SOLICITOR GENERAL

REF: OTTAWA 3705

1. FRANCIS FOX ON SEPT 14 WAS NAMED SOLICITOR
GENERAL. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

2. LIBERAL MP - ARGENTEUIL-DEUX-MONTAGNES. BORN
DEC 2, 1939 AT MONTREAL. EDUCATED AT COLLEGE JEAN
DE BREBEUF; UNIV. OF MONTREAL; HARVARD AND OXFORD.
MARRIED WITH ONE SON. A LAWYER. MEMBER QUEBEC BAR.
ELECTED RHODES SCHOLAR FOR PROV OF QUEBEC, 1964.
SPECIAL ASST TO MIN OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS, 1968-69 AND TO PRIME MINISTER 1970-72.
FIRST ELECTED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS GEN ELEC 1972.
APPOINTED PARL SECRETARY TO MIN OF JUSTICE AND
ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCT 1975.

3. COMMENT: FOX IS AS FLUENTLY BILINGUAL AS IS PRIME
MINISTER TRUDEAU. AND, PROBABLY AS BRIGHT AND
INTELLECTUALLY ALERT. HE IS FRIENDLY TO EMBASSY
OFFICERS AND CAN BE EXTREMELY CANDID AND A GOOD
SOURCE OF INFORMATION. HE HAS BEEN A LOYAL QUEBEC
FEDERALIST, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, AND HAS NOT,
FOR EXAMPLE, JOINED WITH SERVE JOYAL AND PIERRE
DEBANE IN OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
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HANDLING OF THE AIR TRAFFIC DISPUTE. UNTIL
DEBANE AND JOYAL'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE GOVERNMENT,

THE THREE WERE CONSIDERED AMONG THE RISING STARS
IN THE QUEBEC CAUCUS.
ENDERS

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NNN

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